

RESOURCES

News about nature, history and horticulture in Fairfax County

Volume 1, No.2 Winter 2000

Our 50th Anniversary ...and Beyond

The Fairfax County Park Authority will officially celebrate its 50th anniversary on December 6, 2000. Along with the celebrations of the past has come some serious thinking about the challenges of the future. As Fairfax County becomes more truly urban, as its age, ethnicity and other demographics change, and as land suitable for preserving for open space and recreational amenities disappears, what's a Park Authority to do?

► **50th Anniversary** continued on page 7



The 1794 Sully Historic Site is illuminated for visitors in December. Candlelight tours, festive decorations and more await you. See page 8 for details.

WINTER AT KIDWELL FARM

The last dairy farm in Fairfax County has finished cutting the hay and storing it in the barn; the corn has been cut and the cobs stored in the crib. Summer vegetables and fruits have been gathered and canned, and the hogs are ready to provide the family with meat, sausage and later salt pork. Thanks to the farming family's backbreaking work during the last nine months, both the cows and the people will have food for the winter.

The 1930s-era Kidwell Farm at Frying Pan Park has been preserved by the Fairfax County Park Authority to honor an agricultural way of life that was so important in the county for so long. Kidwell is operated as an early 20th century farm to demonstrate how a Depression-era family — a farmer, his wife and their children, and perhaps a hired hand — grew crops on depleted soil, grazed and managed a dairy herd, remade old clothes into new ones, refurbished old furniture and supplied most of their own food needs.

What makes the Kidwell 1930s farm experience dramatic is that so many changes were to happen during the decade. Farmers turned to mechanized machinery like tractors as they could afford them.

County agents demonstrated the benefits of fertilizing and insect control and taught better methods of improving herds and crops as well as family nutrition standards. Little by little, the use of electricity cut the time and manual work of farming in radical ways.

Milk was the main cash "crop" in this era. It was taken to market at the nearby Herndon train station, where it was shipped to Alexandria and Washington, D.C. creameries. There it was pasteurized and distributed or was made into butter and cheese for the growing Washington market. As one farmer put it, "you sold your crop production through your milk can."

It was a demanding way of life. The farmers were up by 4:00 a.m. and milking by 4:30. It took a good hand seven minutes to milk one cow. The milk had to be poured into clean 10-gallon cans and readied for the morning milk run to the train station. During the winter daily care of animals was even harder, involving dragging hay through the snow and breaking through the ice in the pond or stock tank to provide 40 gallons of water a day per cow.

If the role of the farmer was a busy one, so was that of his wife. So important and respected was her

► **Kidwell Farm** continued on page 7

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What's New for Winter

The Necessary Information at Green Spring

How many of us remember tramping out to the necessary or outhouse on a cold, wintry day, knee-deep in snow? Hubert Owen, Fairfax County Health Department Environmental Specialist, will talk about styles, structure and social history of this necessary part of our history on Saturday, January 6, from noon until 2 p.m. Afterwards, you will be able to enjoy soup, sandwich, and dessert. Other Soup and Sandwich programs include wine in Virginia, weaponry in the everyday life of American colonists and colonial justice. Register through the Green Spring Gardens Manor House at 703-941-7987.



Equestrian Excitement!



Rain or shine, horse lovers have some great events coming up this winter. Free to spectators at Frying Pan Park's wonderful indoor equestrian center will be a Schooling Hunter Horse Show series at 8 a.m. Saturdays on December 16, January 6 and February 3. Also, on Sundays at 9 a.m. on December 10, January 21 and February 4, the Just Jumper Horse Show series will be held. Come watch local residents compete for a blue ribbon in a variety of jumping classes. For more information, call 703-437-9101.

Nature and Celebration

*The holly and the ivy, when they
are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
the holly bears the crown.*

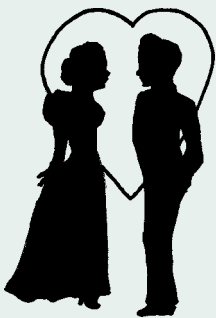
— Traditional

Our attachment to green living things during the darkest days of the year may be rooted in long-forgotten human experience. Green boughs perhaps assure us that rebirth and renewal will surely come; that life continues. Reaffirm your confidence in tomorrow in a Family Wreath-Making Workshop, Sunday, December 10, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center. Create two seasonal wreaths of straw and vines, decorated with greens, cones, dried flowers and ribbons. \$15 per family covers all materials. Call 703-451-9588 for reservations.

By Jim Pomeroy

Victorian Valentines

The young and the "young at heart" will enjoy exploring the history of Victorian Valentines at Colvin Run Mill on Sunday, February 11. After the talk, try your hand at making a few beauties of your own to take home! There are two sessions, at 1 to 2 p.m. or 3 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Friends of Colvin Mill. Reservations are required by February 3 and there is a \$4 charge per person. Call 703-759-2771.



Orienteering Opportunities

You too can be a hero by hiking your way in and out of the woods with just a compass and map to aid you. Join one of our parks' January orienteering classes and learn these skills to hike with confidence and try a short course for practice. On January 20 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., put on your boots and meet at Riverbend (703-759-9018). Orienteering for Families will be held on January 24 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park (703-631-0013). For a two-mile challenge, dress warmly for the course at Riverbend from 9 a.m. to noon, also on January 24. Reservations and small fee required.

For more information about our nature, historic and horticultural sites and directions for getting to them, check out these pages on the Park Authority web site at www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/nature.htm, www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/history.htm and www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/omp.htm. Park addresses are listed on page 8 of this issue.

Winter Walks and Hikes

Winter is a great time to get out and explore nature! And at Hidden Pond, the quiet woods beckon you. Take a Saturday morning walk with a naturalist on December 9 or February 24 from 10:30 a.m. until noon and enjoy a peaceful escape from the busy pace of life. On Friday, December 15, Naturalist Mike will lead a night hike from 7 to 9 p.m. at Hidden Pond in search of the screech owl, red fox and beaver, preceded by a short slide show of these and other nocturnal animals. All events canceled if it rains. Reservations and \$2 fee required for the night hike; call 703-451-9588.

RESOURCES

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Beavers – Wildlife in Our Backyards

By Marjorie Pless
Natural Resource Protection

"There is a great pole somewhere, a mighty trunk that holds up the world. The Great White Grandfather Beaver of the North is gnawing at that pole. When he gets angry, he gnaws faster and more furiously. Once he has gnawed all the way through, the pole will topple, and the earth will crash into a bottomless nothing. That will be the end of all ends. So we are careful not to make the beaver angry. We want the world to last a little longer."

– Told by Cheyenne
Mrs. Medicine Bull
of Birney, Montana

Beavers have been viewed by many Native Americans as the "sacred center" of the earth because they change the landscape and create rich wetland habitat for other mammals, fish, amphibians, birds and waterfowl. About 50 percent of all wildlife species in North America are dependent upon wetlands for survival.

In the urbanized Fairfax County of today, however, the growing beaver population has earned a mixed review. A number of residents, frustrated with tree damage and property flooding, would prefer that the beaver not live here. These landscape alterations create conflicts that the Park Authority must attempt to resolve.

Beavers are now considered a "keystone species" because, through dam building, they help to control flooding and erosion and improve water quality. In stream valleys that have no resident beaver populations, scientists have found that stream waters move more rapidly, cut deeper channels, erode more land, lower the water table, and function more like drainage ditches than stream ecosystems. Several localities have brought in beaver to help in stream restoration; the effort has sometimes proved to be successful where handmade structures have failed.

Beavers are the largest rodents in North America, weighing as much as 80 pounds and reaching four feet in length, including their long, flat tails. Their famous two long curving incisors are coated with an orange-hued protective covering. These powerful teeth enable the beaver to cut through a six-inch tree trunk in just 15 minutes! Beavers must constantly cut wood; if they didn't their front teeth, which grow very rapidly, would curl back into their skulls. Their canoe-paddle-like tails are used for maneuvering under water, for balancing on land when cutting trees and for slapping the water's surface as a danger warning.

At two to three years of age, a beaver leaves its family, often with strong encouragement from its growing multi-generational relatives. The beaver travels nearby streams in search of a place to make its own home. The beaver will first select an area,



build a dam to slow the flow of water and raise water levels before determining where to build its lodge with its underwater entrance. In Fairfax County, beavers often burrow into stream banks and create dens instead of lodges because of the degraded condition of the streams.

Beavers forage close to home for their favorite trees like cottonwood, willow, alders, red maples, poplars, dogwoods and birches. The trees generally resprout with bushy growth after the beaver's pruning efforts. Beavers' winter diet consists of the bark of these trees, which they gnaw from cut sticks similar to the way humans gnaw on ears of corn. During the remainder of the year, they eat aquatic vegetation such as cattail tubers, sedges and grasses.

The Fairfax County Park Authority considers beaver to be a natural and beneficial part of the environment. The agency strives to give citizens an understanding of and appreciation for beaver and to promote peaceful coexistence. Conflicts arise when beaver activity interferes with water flow and when tree damage is observed.

There are a number of steps that citizens can take to reduce beaver damage to their property. The Park Authority has a Wildlife Conflict Resolution policy to address such issues and relies upon cooperation with property owners to resolve problems in a responsible manner. For further information or for a copy of the Park Authority brochure on beavers, please call the Authority's Resource Management Division at 703-324-8674. ❁

Children's Holiday Shopping Adventures



Holiday magic brings sparkle and excitement to children and parents during December in the parks. Special shopping days for children take place at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site and Frying Pan Park where the old-fashioned stores of other eras are stocked with gifts unique to each park. It's a favorite time for staff and volunteers, full of cheer, surprises and fun for everyone concerned.

The Children's Holiday Shopping event at the Colvin Run General Store in Great Falls is held on December 2, 3 and 4. In contrast to the frantic mega-malls, the unhurried, look-at-everything atmosphere of the store allows children to make thoughtful decisions about their purchases. During program hours, the store — bursting with special gifts for child-size budgets — is open only to children and the volunteers who help them with their selections.

The young shoppers, at first wide-eyed and shy, share their lists with a volunteer helper and earnestly begin the search for just the right gift. Selections are made from displays of candles and soaps scented with traditional flowers, items made by the mill's blacksmith, old-fashioned wooden toys, jellies and jams, quilt square coasters, holiday handkerchiefs and tins of Virginia peanuts. To make sure the children's gifts remain surprises, more volunteers are on hand to wrap each gift before the children rush out to rejoin waiting adults.

Outside, visitors have had a chance to stroll through the mill site and visit the nearby barn where a train display features Thomas the Tank Engine and other G-gauge trains wending their way through a snowy village setting. Throughout December there is holiday music and trees, one with presents stuffed into the branches, as it would have been during the 1900s. In the barn, a live tree is covered with beautiful cut-paper garlands and ornaments made from traditional German patterns.

Children's Holiday Shopping Days at Frying Pan Country Store proved so popular in the first year that it will be open for two days this year, December 9 and 11. The Country Store, housed in the old Floris Vocational School building, is bursting with gifts that recall the ingenuity of families living in the community during the Great Depression. A wonderful and enthusiastic volunteer staff, including a

volunteer Girl Scout troop, excitedly helps children select their gifts for family and friends. There are books about farm animals, cotton aprons and cookbooks, toy tractors and trucks, braided rug trivets and baskets.

And don't forget the hayrides at Frying Pan that continue through the winter! ❄️



Children's Shopping Days at Colvin Run Mill are Saturday, December 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the model train display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, December 3, from noon to 4 p.m. for shopping and train display; and Monday, December 4, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for shopping. Call 703-759-2771 for more information.

At Frying Pan, children's shopping hours are Saturday, December 9, from noon to 5 p.m. and Monday, December 11, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call 703-435-3710 for more information. The store is closed for the winter after the holidays.

Winter Gardening Tool Tip

Winter is a great time to repair and perform annual maintenance on your trusted garden tools. Pruners should be disassembled, cleaned, blades sharpened and oiled. Pruners that don't disassemble will eventually wear out and their blades will eventually dull; next time purchase a pruner that will allow you to maintain and replace parts as they wear. Shovel handles should be lightly sanded and rubbed down with linseed oil. Blades of shovels and hoes should be cleaned, rough spots filed down with a large metal file (called a bastard mill), and oiled to prevent rust. Keep in mind that well-maintained tools don't just last longer, they are also easier and safer to use. ❄️

Family Fun in Green Spring's Gardens

By Cindy Brown, Interpretative Horticulturist

Gardening is my career choice, my hobby and my passion. My perfect day is spent pruning, planting, deadheading and standing in the garden dreaming of new projects. Luckily, I have found a position that allows me to do both: I am a horticulturist and program coordinator at Green Spring Gardens Park.

While the physical work of gardening can be difficult, the real challenge is creating programs that will allow people to enjoy the wonderful experience that is Green Spring. The overload of weekend activities available in Washington, combined with the usual grocery shopping, cleaning, sports activities and all the rest, put the odds against my hope of attracting children and parents to our site.

What I knew for sure was that children love to make things. Give a child a box of scraps, maybe a little instruction, and they can create masterpieces. But sometimes the workspace can get messy, it can be hard to find time to provide instruction and often ideas are limited. Wouldn't it be great if there was a place to go that provided the workspace, materials and ideas? With the wave of a magic trowel, Family Fun at Green Spring was created.

Family Fun programs are designed to share a bit of horticultural advice, to let families work together to create something wonderful for the garden, and to have fun in a beautiful park. This year's projects have included window boxes (we constructed the boxes, filled them with soil, and planted a rainbow of flowers) and mosaic stepping stones. We are looking forward to making Gobbler gourds (a Thanksgiving centerpiece that converts to a springtime birdhouse), natural holiday decorations (did you ever collect a basket full of acorns and wonder what to



Family fun at Green Springs (3-line caption to come?)

do with them?) and enchanted dish gardens (this one is top secret!).

Watching faces light up with success, listening to the excited comments of both children and adults, and sharing Green Spring's beautiful gardens — another one of life's perfect days. Come join us at Green Spring for one of the growing number of family programs! ❁



*Come join us
in the parks!*

*For more
information on
volunteer*

opportunities, call

703-324-8750

or visit

[www.co.fairfax.va.us/](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/volunteer)

[parks/volunteer.](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/volunteer)

Volunteers Are Everywhere!

By Erin Chernisky
Volunteer Services Coordinator

The Fairfax County parks are filled with a species that is both native and wonderfully diverse. This species is the volunteers who greet visitors, present nature programs, cultivate gardens, interpret historical themes, drive tractors, answer phones, dig for artifacts, clean watersheds, milk cows, monitor bird nest boxes....These are just a few of the many things you will find volunteers doing.

Evelyn Rossie, who recently received the division's 2000 Volunteer Excellence Award, is a "retiree" who devotes her time to the Sully Historic Site in Chantilly. When she isn't busy fascinating both children and adults with her lively tours of the 1794 home of Richard Bland Lee, Rossie can be found with the Sully Stitchers, a group that she co-founded, sewing 18th century style caps and haversacks. Rossie even plans educational and fun excursions for volunteers.

At age 14, Chris Holland, the second recipient of the 2000 Volunteer Excellence Award, dedicates much of his time to Hidden Oaks Nature Center in Annandale. Children listen with rapt attention as Holland, a polished and seasoned program leader, delivers presentations on topics such as snapping turtles and American toads. Holland is also a caretaker of the live exhibits at Hidden Oaks.

These are just two examples of the many people of all ages, talents and availabilities who choose to play a big role in making our park system so rich and varied. Sound like fun? It really is. Next time you're at a park, just ask a volunteer. Then think about what you've found intriguing about that park. You might want to get involved, too. Volunteers are a special and growing species. Come join us in the parks! For more information on volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-8750 or visit www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/volunteer. ❁

Dear Diary: *Learning Archaeology is Hard!*

By Bob Wharton
County Archaeological Services



I believe that one of the best ways to effect change is to put new, or at least different, information in the hands of educators. With historic preservation and local history as sub-sets of archaeology, what better way to reach the citizens of tomorrow than by sharing an archaeological experience with their teachers of today? Where can the "ripple on the pond" effect be more dramatic?

Twelve teachers completed the second annual Fairfax County Park Authority Field School in Archaeology presented this past summer. Two instructors for this Field School, Martha Williams and Jack Hiller, are retired Fairfax County Public School teachers who brought archaeology to their own classrooms. They are now volunteers with County Archaeological Services.

Along with formal instruction and lesson plans for teacher use, teacher-students were also given a notebook and the assignment to write something during the last 15 minutes of each day. During the next six days, the teachers joined crews of volunteers excavating a prehistoric site, 44FX2076, slated for destruction by development of Lorton Town Center, and tested part of a historic site, 44FX2455, in the colonial town of Colchester on the Occoquan.

So now I will have a chance to find a real "treasure." I am excited about tomorrow.

Interesting day! I still have not a clue exactly what "they" want us to do tomorrow, but I think it is very cool that I get a trowel!

They listened to mini lectures on lithic technology and dug shovel test pits in the broiling sun.

This experience is interesting.... The actual process is not at all "romantic"....

Dug and talked — talked and dug. I'm dirty but determined to return!

I need to remember how lost I was trying to learn this stuff when I introduce something new to my students.

The teacher-students learned about record keeping and waited out rainstorms under a blue tarp.

I am happy to note that we did quite a bit of the logging without supervision; we are getting the hang of this record-keeping....



Digging in the mud — YUCK! Today was no fun at all. And we continued in the rain!

They also learned about the use of geometry and surveying and to identify historic ceramics.

What a way to learn — on site, 3-4 students per teacher, discussing, talking! Wish I could do it with my class and bring them to the site.

I began the day being more frustrated than I can remember being in a long time! I simply could not grasp the 3-4-5 grid thing. My brain just shuts down — a perfect example of how fear and stress adversely affect learning....

The flies, the flies! Wow! They can even bite through socks!

What did they learn? Here are some of their thoughts after Day Seven of the course.

Historical sites do seem to have more application to what I do at school with my students. Many...are at-risk students who can see value in assignments when they can apply what they learn.

I'd like to figure out a way of transferring this to my kids. Looking hard at an object really makes one see. To list attributes, color, shape, shadow, form, etc. Excluding left-brain lists and names makes one search for comparisons.

I will miss the breeze, the dirt between my fingers and my new friends!

So what is the result? Only time will tell, but our teachers-students had the experience of working and learning together in a new way. I think it is safe to say that we all were changed by the time we spent together. And that change may make its way into the classroom in unique and exciting ways. ✱



PARK FEATURES

► 50th Anniversary *continued from page 1*

"We must work with the Park Authority Board to rethink the appropriate role for the Park Authority in an increasingly urban county," Director Paul Baldino states, citing one of his top three priorities for the decade ahead. The others? "We have to build in the needs of an older, active population and of the cultural diversity we have throughout the county. And we have to insure sensitive development and protection of the land acquired in the last few years."

It's a broad challenge. Fortunately, Baldino's background in management makes him an experienced and committed leader for the job. He cites, for example, the many considerations involved in the recent increase in Park Authority acreage that has come through acquisitions, donations and proffers. The Authority has taken on 2,056 acres in the last fiscal year alone.

"The acquisitions are wonderful, and the bond funds make important targeted purchases possible," Baldino says. "The issue now is how to enlist that wonderful citizen support and interest that we enjoy to maintain properties at the level expected by the public." He talks about the new Park Foundation, a non-profit organization designed to allow individuals and groups to make tax-deductible contributions to park protection and development.

Despite the growth in Park Authority acreage, need for green space in already-developed areas remains great. Baldino talks about creating urban and "vest-pocket" parks in these areas that can reflect the character and diversity of a neighborhood.

The Park Authority Director is also taking a look at alternatives to pure preservation of some lands. Staff members have discussed with the Housing and Community Development agency the possibility of cooperative development of some properties to provide green space and recreational amenities that adjoin housing for the elderly and disabled.

"It is imperative to get large parcels planned early and designate areas for athletic field development and other active recreation as well as areas for preservation," Baldino mentions the prehistoric sites found at Lorton and areas for the federal historic district that the Park Authority has been key in identifying. The Lorton facilities, for example, were where Suffragettes were incarcerated.

Then there are easements, trends in leisure service provision and changing philosophies that will affect the future of the Park Authority's work. Citizen recognition of the value of open land has skyrocketed. It's an exciting time.

"There are no doors that are closed" as the Park Authority begins its second half-century, Baldino notes. "It's just a matter of marshalling your resources and deciding what to go after first." ❄

► Kidwell Farm *continued from page 1*



role that it was said, "A farmer needs his wife like he needs the rain." The farmer's wife managed the growing of fruits and vegetables and their preserving and canning. She made and often remade clothes, caned chairs and reconditioned furniture, making the house more habitable and hospitable with curtains and other decorating ideas.

Despite its hardships, winter was a great time for socializing within the community. There was lots of visiting back and forth, even ice skating on the baptismal pond of Frying Pan Baptist Church. County extension agents

held meetings on scientific farming methods, nutrition and breeding programs, and improvements in machinery. Farmers' club meetings, such as those held in the Great Falls Grange Hall, served both a social function and also addressed issues like improving roads to speed the flow of goods to market. The milk producers' associations became advocates for the drinking of milk and marketed its wholesomeness against past fears of tuberculosis.

Farmers' wives got together to discuss better production from their vegetable gardens and often to help others in the community. The Home

Demonstration Club in Fairfax organized hot-lunch programs for 18 out of 24 schools, feeding students who often had little food at home. In fact, Home Demonstration Club members across the state canned 15,000 cans of food in one year for use in the school lunch program.

The distribution of electricity to rural communities lessened many manual farming burdens and exposed rural families to radio and city conveniences and employment. Some farmers used the very trains that had hauled their milk to market to travel to jobs in the city. The dramatic changes of the 1930s allowed these farmers, in effect, to become the first Washington commuters, heralding a new future for Fairfax County. ❄



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YOUR PARKS

Where is the Park Closest to You?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p> Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
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Sully Road, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794</p> <p> Green Spring Gardens Park
4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173</p> <p> Hidden Oaks Nature Center
7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065</p> <p> Hidden Pond Nature Center
8511 Greeley Boulevard
Springfield
Call 703-451-9588</p> | <p> Huntley Meadows Park
3701 Lockheed Boulevard
Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525</p> <p> Riverbend Park
8700 Potomac Hills Street
Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018</p> <p> Colvin Run Mill
10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771</p> <p> Frying Pan Park
2709 West Ox Road
Herndon
Call 703-437-9101</p> |
|---|--|

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The Christmas Bird Count

Tracking local bird populations has long been a way to better understand the influences of wetlands, suburban growth and habitat preservation. Join the Christmas Bird Count at Riverbend Park from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Sunday, December 17, to find and count numbers of ducks, raptors and many other species. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars and field guides for identification. Teams will cover the entire park. Then compare notes over cocoa and bagels. Free but reservations required; call 703-759-9018.

Sully Candlelight Tours

Visit Sully Historic Site in all its 18th century holiday finery during December from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., when it is elegantly draped with greens and graceful decorations. Special Candlelight Tours of the 1794 house will be held on two Saturdays, December 9 and 16, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Outside, enjoy Civil War music and visit with Confederate troops as they recreate Christmas in the field. Walk to the Slave Quarter and find out what Sully's enslaved residents did during the holiday season. A full holiday experience!

Treat your Favorite Gardener

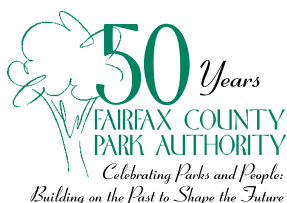
This holiday season, make Green Spring's Horticulture Center Shop a bright spot on your shopping landscape. Find that special tool, that gorgeous book for your gardening friends (and don't forget to pick out items to put on your own list!). The Center is open daily, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4:30 p.m. Where else to enjoy the pleasures of the greenhouse in high holiday form, and to gather useful gardening items to boot! For more information, call 703-642-5173.

Nighttime's the Right Time

The crisp cool air of a January evening is the perfect time to search and listen for animal signs. Join us at Riverbend Park on January 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. to enhance your senses as we delve into the nocturnal world of wildlife. Warm up after the program with hot cocoa and cookies. Eight years and older; \$2 fee; call for reservations at 703-759-9018.

Farm Animal Babies

Sheep, pigs, goats and cows all deliver babies during late winter and early spring at Kidwell Farm at Frying Pan Park. January through April is the busiest time for meeting the new piglets, calves and lambs. Stop by and see the most recent arrivals in the barn, follow the birth news on our sign outside or call for birth updates. Call 703-437-9101 or 703-437-5318.



Fairfax, Virginia 22035-1118